

To whom it may concern,

My name is Danielle Sunter. I live at 229 Branford Road, Unit 102, North Branford, CT 06471.

I am writing because I oppose HB 5537, section 6. Applied Behavior Analysis is not in the scope of practice for Speech and Language Pathologists. It would be absolutely inappropriate to allow them to provide ABA services for our students when they have not taken courses in ABA. ABA is a field in its own right and students deserve to have appropriate providers oversee these services (Board Certified Behavior Analysts). As a BCBA in the public schools, I truly respect Speech and Language Pathologists and work closely with many of them. Just as I would not consider myself to have the same skills in speech and language, I do not consider SLPs to have the appropriate skills for ABA.

Different fields have different specialties. Just because SLPs and BCBAs work with similar populations, does not mean their skill sets are one in the same. They both offer expertise in different areas for students with special needs. You would not go to see a physical therapist to have your eyes checked!

Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Danielle Sunter, MS, BCBA